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# THE CLASSICAL JOURNAL

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## Editorial

JOHN HENRY WRIGHT

John Henry Wright, professor of Greek and dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in Harvard University, died at Cambridge, Mass., November 25, 1908, in the fifty-seventh year of his age. He was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1873, and received the degree of A.M. there in 1876, after serving in the interval as assistant professor of ancient languages in the Ohio State University. He studied in Leipzig two years, and in 1878 was made associate professor of Greek in Dartmouth. In 1886-87 he was professor of classical philology in Johns Hopkins University, whence he was called to Harvard University in 1887, becoming dean of the Graduate School in 1895. In 1901 he received the degree of LL.D. from Western Reserve College and from Dartmouth College. His long service of twenty years at Harvard was interrupted only once, in 1906-7, when he was "annual" professor at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, member of the Council of the Archaeological Institute, and, in 1894, president of the American Philological Association. Besides being editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Archaeology* from its reorganization in 1897 to 1906, he was associate editor of the *Classical Review* from 1888-1906, and of its successor, the *Classical Quarterly*, from 1907. He was active in the interests of the New England Classical Association, presiding with skill and wit at its first meeting in Springfield, in April, 1906.

These brief biographical details reflect but little of the eminent personal qualities which Professor Wright possessed, but they indicate the wide variety and extent of his training and experience and

explain the beneficent influence which he was able to exert on so many of the younger scholars of this country. The traits that immediately impressed a student on his first meeting with him were generosity, sympathy, and learning. His kindness was unfailing, his courtesy never shaken. Possessing a keen sense of humor, he was merciful to the blunderer, ready to overlook the crudeness and awkwardness of the tyro, but equally firm in correcting the puerile and in rebuking the insincere.

His scholarship was fertile, whether expressed in his own writings or in the work which he inspired in others. Broad in its range, it was deep in its thoroughness. Versed as he was in the technical minutiae of those branches of classical philology in which he was a specialist, he had the gift, often lacking in men of his class, of imparting human interest and a literary quality to his exposition of scientific subjects. As a writer his style had charm, so that the study of a problem in Greek epigraphy, for example, became in his hands not only a work of scholarly importance, but also a matter of interest to a reader not trained in technicalities. He had rare insight into the beauties of English, and his taste guided him surely in the interpretation of the subtleties and graces of Greek style. His sense of form expressed itself also in his love for Greek art, and he found congenial labor in the editorship of the *American Journal of Archaeology*. Through his edition of Collignon's *Manual* and the courses which he offered he became the pioneer in the teaching of classical archaeology in this country.

These numerous activities, as scholar, teacher, editor, dean, made him known to a wide circle, who will feel keenly the loss which the cause of the classics has sustained. As teacher, colleague and friend, he has left on his immediate circle in Cambridge a lasting inspiration and a pious obligation to emulate his useful life.

CHARLES BURTON GULICK

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION  
OF THE MIDDLE WEST AND SOUTH

Our Association meets this year with the Tulane University of Louisiana, at New Orleans, on February 24 and 25. The date is